

Mark Twain National Forest

Missouri

Bell Mountain Trail

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Eastern Region, USDA Forest Service

December 8, 2010

Highlights

The Ozark Trail is concurrent with the Bell Mountain Trail for about a mile into the Wilderness. Then the Bell Mountain Trail turns north and ascends the 1,702-foot Bell Mountain peak. A Wilderness is a special area set aside by Congress which “generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable...” The area is rugged and suitable for experienced hikers only. Before you start, be prepared with adequate supplies; water sources within the Wilderness are not recommended for drinking. A separate two-mile trail begins at the end of Forest Road 2359 on the east and leads to the top of Lindsey Mountain.

Trail

Both sections offer breathtaking views of the surrounding area. The tall peaks of the St. Francois region extend southeasterly. Between Bell Mountain and Lindsey Mountain lies Shut-in Creek, a spring-fed stream with several gorges along its course, these gorges are locally called “shut-ins”—a result of the unyielding resistance of igneous rock to water erosion.

Joe’s creek cuts deeply into the west slope of Bell Mountain; clefts and boulders form the basic landscape. The St. Francois Mountains, one of oldest landforms in North America, has a combination of plant and animal communities not found in other areas of the Ozarks. Gnarled blackjack and post oak, black hickory, and a few winged elms are found in the harsh environment of the granite glades. The native grass supports unique and interesting life forms. Pileated woodpeckers, wood thrush and ovenbirds are abundant. White tailed deer, wild turkeys and squirrels can be found.

For More Information

Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District

Highway 8 West, P.O. Box 188

Potosi, MO 63664

Phone: (573) 438-5427 Fax: (573) 438-2633

Hours Monday thru Friday 8AM- 4:30PM

Directions: Ottery Creek Trailhead: from Potosi, MO, take Hwy 21 South 18 miles to Hwy 32. Take Hwy 32 West 8 miles to Hwy A. Take Hwy A South approx 1/4 mile to first Forest Road SE Go approx 1/4 mile SE to site. **Hwy A Trailhead,** from Potosi, take Hwy 8 one mile East to Hwy 21. Go South on Hwy 21 for 11 miles. Or take Hwy 21 South for 17 miles to Hwy 32. Take Hwy 32 West for 8 miles to Hwy A. Take Hwy A approx 5 miles South to site.

Difficulty Level: More Difficult

Length: 12 miles

Best Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Restrictions: Foot and Horse only; motorized & mechanized equip prohibited; max 10 persons/group.

Safety: During temperate months, be prepared for biting insects, poison ivy and high temperatures. Be advised of hunting seasons. Avoid using the trail during excessively wet periods.

Other Recreation Activities: Backpacking, bird watching, photography, wilderness camping.

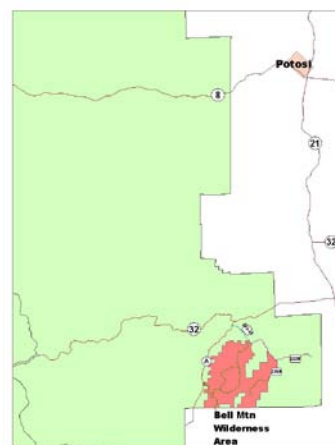
Nearby Facilities: Council Bluff Recreation Area, Sutton Bluff Recreation Area.

Assistance:

Iron County Sheriff: (573) 546-7321

Washington Co. Ambulance: (573) 438-3211

Washington Co. Hospital: (573) 438-5451



Vicinity Map

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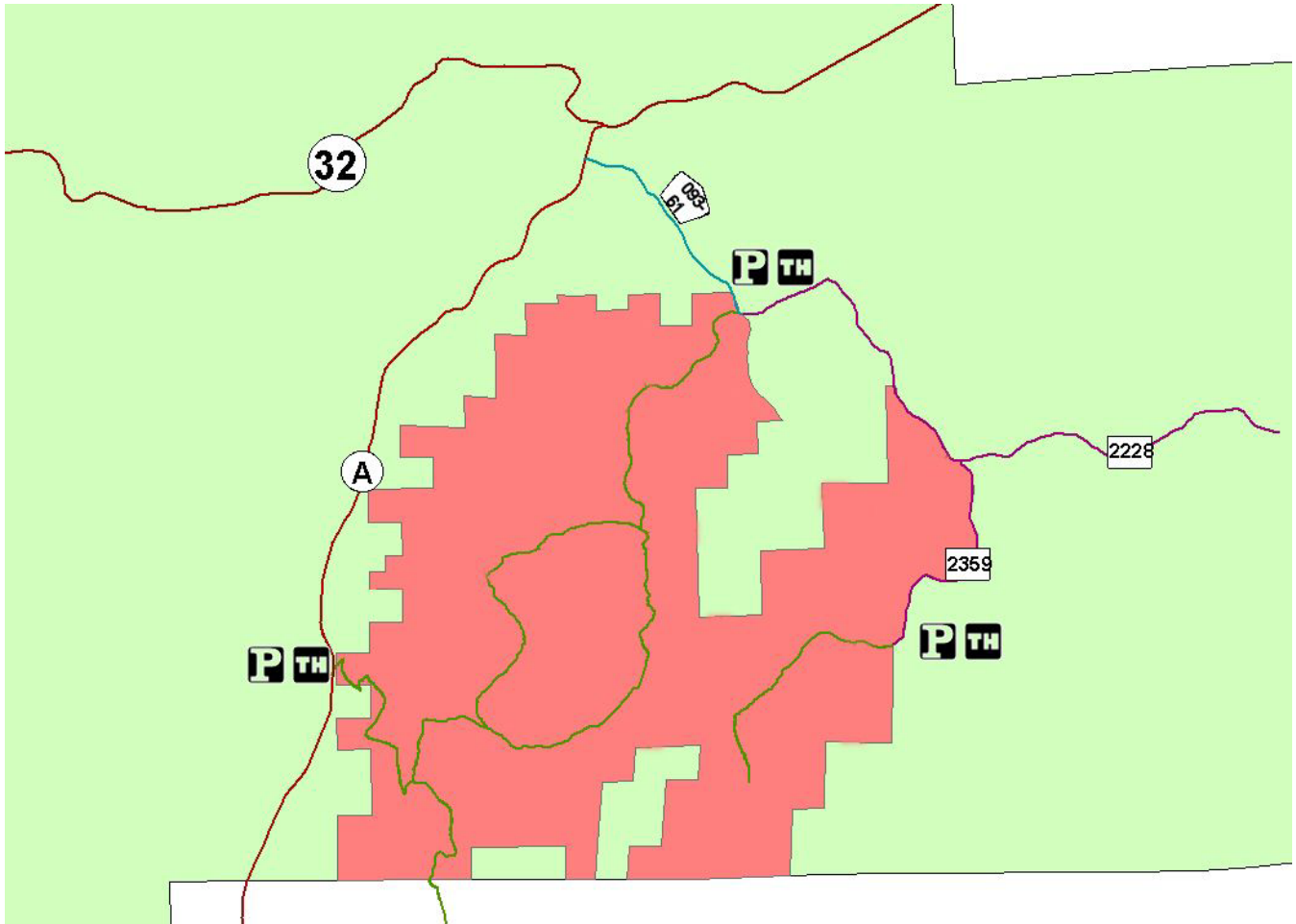
Mark Twain National Forest

401 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO 65401

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf/>



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Taum Sauk Section of the Ozark Trail